

September 19, 1988

TO: Minerals File  
FROM: Holland Shepherd HWS  
RE: Site Visit, Desert Mound, U.S. Diversified Group,  
M/021/003, Iron County, Utah

Myself, Wayne Hedberg and Scott Johnson met on September 14, 1988, with Mr. Roy Benson and Dr. Thon Gin of U.S. Diversified Group. The meeting was held at the Desert Mound site to evaluate the revegetation efforts of the last four years. Wayne Hedberg and I had visited the site this past July and determined that more seeding needed to be done on at least one large area on the site. For the most part, revegetation has been successful on this site. The site was first seeded in 1984 and again in the fall of 1987.

Initially, we inspected the southeastern portion of the site, which has been revegetated successfully. The area is patchy in spots where vegetation is either non-existent or sparsely growing. However, from the appearance of surrounding vegetation, we determined that within a short time frame the patchy areas will also become revegetated by volunteer species. It was obvious from vegetation growing on this portion of the site that many of the species that are thriving successfully have volunteered onto the site. Individual species of rabbitbrush, which volunteered onto the site four years ago, are now three to four feet in height. Other species such as blazing star, desert eriogonum, narrow leaf senecio and desert mint have volunteered onto the site, from the adjacent area. Planted species that were drilled onto the site four years ago and also in the fall of 1987 are also obviously growing on the site, most predominant of which is yellow sweet clover. Some small grasses can also be seen growing in the drill rolls.

An area at the extreme northwest end of the site has not shown good revegetation success. This area, which parallels the railroad tracks, consists mostly of black iron ore processing fines and gravel which is not a good plant growing medium. Very few species were seen growing on this area other than noxious weeds such as halogeaon and russian thistle. No plant species that were drill seeded in the previous two seasons were seen growing at all.

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Ourselves and the two representatives from U.S. Diversified Group, agreed that the area was not doing well and something did need to be done. However we were not in agreement that a third reseedling of this area would be the answer to the problem. I asked Dr. Gin if he might be willing to mulch the area with 4,000 lbs. of native hay mulch and reseed with a seed mixture that I would recommend. I explained to him that the Division would only expect one more reseedling of the area and if that was unsuccessful we would not ask the operator to make another attempt. Dr. Gin did not totally agree that another reseedling would be successful and offered, instead, to pay the Division the amount of money that it would take to reseed the three acres of disturbance at the site. Dr. Gin offered to give us the money for reseedling that we could, he explained, put into a fund for other sites in Utah that required reclamation. Dr. Gin was not aware at the time that the Division does not maintain such a fund for the minerals program. I advised Dr. Gin that we would take his offer to our administrators and after speaking with them, we would make a decision and get back with him later. Dr. Gin was agreeable that either way, to come in again and reclaim or to pay the Division the amount of reclamation would be agreeable with his company.

The area that we agreed upon, which needs reclamation, is a narrow 50 foot strip, located on the extreme northwest end of the site and parallels the railroad tracks (on the north side), for approximately 1/2 of a mile. The train tracks running through the entire area has a right-of-way of approximately 50 feet on either side. Taking this into account the area of disturbance consists of approximately 3 acres. The entire 3 acre area needs to be reclaimed. There are no patchy areas where good plant material is available on this 3 acre site.

jb  
cc: L. Braxton  
W. Hedberg  
S. Johnson  
4/25-26